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Vol. 2 No. 8 March 15, 1969.

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STATUS OF FILMS

In November 1968 in Paris, representatives of 125 countries in the General Conference of UNESCO unanimously adopted a resolution which could be considered a landmark in the history of film since it affirms the cultural status of films in the context of the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation which proclaims that "nations shall endeavour to develop the various branches of culture side by side and, as far as possible, simultaneously". The following statements are extracted from this recent UNESCO resolution:

> *Considering the prominent part played by films and other audio-visual media in advancing ... knowledge and mutual understanding of peoples, and in making better and more widely known the forms of expression of the various civilisations,*
> *Considering that films rank as intellectual works, in the same way as books, newspapers and periodicals, and that all such intellectual works should benefit from all measures conducive to the development of culture, to technical progress and to the intellectual and moral advancement of mankind, without any discrimination based on the material form of such works or on the vehicle through which they are transmitted,....*
>
> *The General Conference recommends that:*
>
> *Member States contribute to the achievement of the aims of the "Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation" by encouraging the production, distribution and utilisation on a larger scale of films and other audio-visual media for educational, scientific and cultural purposes;*
>
> *Member States recognise the principle that films are educational, scientific and cultural objects just as are books, newspapers and periodicals.*

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AN AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

It may come as a surprise to many people that the United States did not have a Film Institute until the summer of 1967 when the American Film Institute came into existence with headquarters in Washington. The Film Department of the Museum of Modern Art in New York had been for many years and still is active in preserving films and in promoting film appreciation through a distribution library, publications and a film theatre. Also the Library of Congress in Washington had 25,000 American films on deposit. But no concerted effort had been made to establish a truly national

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film information service and national film archive. The American Film Institute has been set up as a non-profit, non-government corporation and began to operate with a total of $3.9 million at its disposal: $1.3 million from the National Council on the Arts; $1.3 million each from the Ford Foundation and the Motion Picture Association. Its purposes are to include: film preservation and comprehensive film cataloguing; promotion of screen education; stimulation of research into film; encouragement of new film-makers (e.g. $500,000 of the initial budget was allocated as a Short Film Fund). Since the foundation of the Institute, additional grants of money have been made for specific projects. For example, it was recently announced that the Louis B. Mayer Foundation had granted the Institute $150,000 to carry out a three-year historical study of film-making in America.

Canadian groups involved in screen education work might be interested in taking out an Education Membership in the American Film Institute. ($6.00 per year) This would entitle you to receive a variety of useful publications. However, Canadians are cautioned that some of the films referred to in these publication would not be currently available in Canada and most could not be obtained directly from the American sources given. For further information contact: Education Division, American Film Institute, 1815 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Footnote: On the subject of screen education materials, we would recommend various publications on sale from the Publications Department of the British Film Institute, 81 Dean Street, London W. 1, England. Titles include: *Film and Television in Education for Teaching* (66pp., approx. 2s.6d.); *Film Teaching* (107 pp., approx. 7s.6d); *Film Making in Schools and Colleges* (80 pp., approx. 7s.6d.) *Talking About Cinema* (98 pp., 8s.6d.)

In Canada, there are several books on screen education (UNESCO publications) available from the Queen's Printer: *Teaching About the Film* (by J.M.L. Peters, 120 pp., $4.); *Screen Education. Teaching a critical approach to cinema and television* (99 pp., $1.)

News ---------- CFI ---------- *Notes*

Lest anyone assume from our above remarks that the CFI must exist in the same state of financial euphoria as its American counterpart, we feel obliged to explain that this is certainly not the case! The Canadian Film Institute, a non-government, non-profit organization, came into existence in 1935 -- 32 years before the U.S. venture into the same field. But it still lacks adequate financial resources to do the kind of job that needs to be done for films in Canada. The Film Archives division of CFI has collected for preservation more than 2,000 Canadian and foreign films; the scope of our Information Centre was outlined in our February Bulletin. And yet the Canadian Film Archives receives no financial support for its work.

! *HELP* !

A film record of the 6-day flight around the moon by astronauts Borman, Lovell and Anders is now available on 16mm from the CFI film library. Entitled APOLLO 8: JOURNEY AROUND THE MOON, it gives a brief account of the complexity of the Saturn 5 vehicle showing the structure of each of the three sections. Included are pictures taken aboard the space capsule during the flight showing the first T.V. picture of the earth trans-

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mitted from Apollo 8, shots of the moon's surface taken from a 60-mile distance, and work done by the astronauts aboard the vessel. (30 minutes, colour, $5 for one day's use).

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On February 12, 1969, Mrs. Margaret Britt of our Reference and Information Centre celebrated the 14th anniversary of her joining the staff of CFI. Only through the enthusiastic and painstaking efforts of people like Mrs. Britt, has the CFI over the years been able to collect, compile, preserve, and catalogue the massive amount of material that we now have on films. To Mrs. Britt, we wish to express our gratitude and to extend to her hearty congratulations on her achievements.

News ---------- *ANNIVERSARY* ---------- *Notes*